

# Water Resources Task Group Update



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# Water Tasks

1. Develop a surface water monitoring plan for watersheds anticipated to be affected by CBNG development (build off of EPA/USGS outline, the WY-BLM monitoring plan, and existing surface water monitoring). The whole group will be involved for watersheds that cross state lines, while state sub-groups will be used for watersheds which lie exclusively in a single state.
2. Develop an integrated groundwater monitoring plan for aquifers anticipated to be affected by CBNG development. (Build off of MT-TAC recommendations, and existing monitoring in WY and MT).

# Water Tasks (cont.)

3. Prepare an ongoing list of studies being conducted, and provide recommendations on additional studies that are needed.
4. Function as a forum for discussion of issues relating to the development of TMDLs. The whole group will be involved in developing TMDLs for watersheds that cross state lines, while state sub-groups will be used for watersheds which lie exclusively in a single state. The final decision on appropriate TMDLs is a State and EPA function.

# Status of Surface Water Monitoring Plans (Task 1)

- Have agreed that regional monitoring and site specific monitoring should be addressed separately.
- Have determined that a separate monitoring plan must be developed for each major perennial stream.
  - Tongue River (MT-WY)
  - Powder River (MT-WY)

# Task 1 (cont.)

- Therefore end up with Titles similar to the following:
  - Regional Monitoring Plan for the Tongue River Watershed
  - Monitoring Criteria for Infiltration Basins
  - Monitoring Criteria for Lined Basins
  - Monitoring Criteria for On-Drainage Impoundments
- The current plan is to develop the Regional Plan for the Tongue River first since this is a priority for both states.

# Task 1 (cont.)

- Working to compile the different monitoring programs that are currently ongoing
  - NPDES Discharge Permit Related Monitoring
  - Regional Monitoring (USGS, BLM, DEQs EPA and TMDLs)
- Have sent out questionnaire spreadsheet to acquire consistent data.
- Anticipate using the existing USGS Plan as a template.



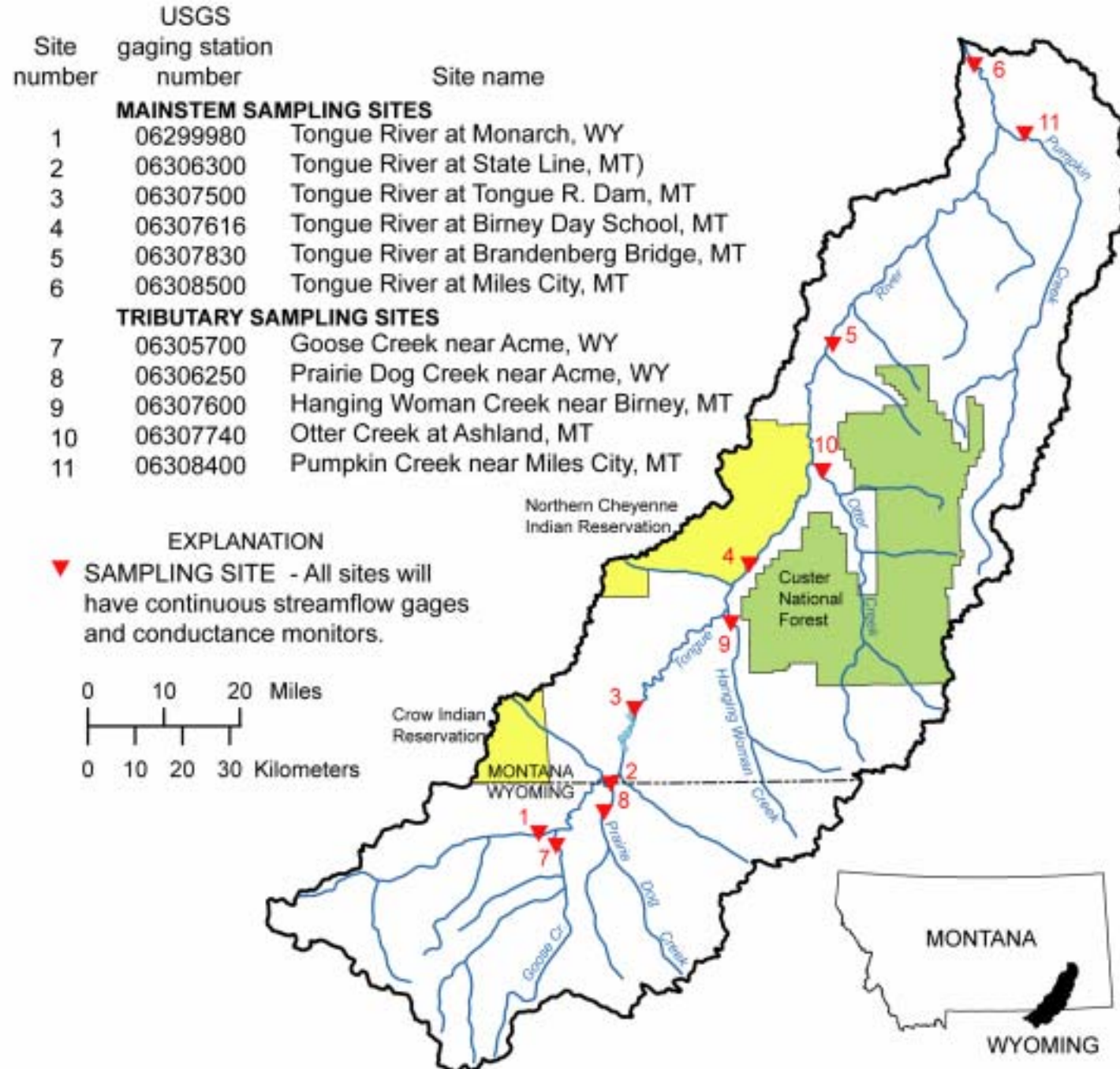


Figure 1. Water-quality sampling sites in the Tongue River watershed.

# Status of Development of an Integrated Groundwater Monitoring Network (Task 2)

- Working to develop Maps of the different regional monitoring sites
  - BLM - MT
  - BLM - WY
  - MBMG
  - USGS
  - Northern Cheyenne
- Plan to post on the CBM Clearinghouse website (WY-BLM)



## Task 2 (cont.)

- Need to workout which aquifers are being monitored
- Need to develop common GIS data standards
- Also plan to construct coverage of “study sites” where basins, alluvium, sandstone above coals etc. are being monitored (all to go on the Clearinghouse)

# Status of the Development of a list of Studies and Suggestions for Future Studies (Task 3)

- Have sent out a questionnaire to find out in a consistent way the studies that are ongoing.
- Have discussed in meetings the need for further work on the fate of water from impoundments.

# Function as a forum for discussion of issues relating to the development of TMDLs (Task 4)

- Several members of the CBNG Water Task group are also on the Modeling Committee for the development of TMDLs for the Tongue River, Powder River and Rosebud Creek.
  - Andy Bobst
  - Dan Hengle
  - John Barnes
  - Art Compton
- TMDLs are a subject covered in all meetings

# Suggested Added Task (#5?)

- Something along the lines of "Coordinate at a staff levels with other agencies to avoid or minimize administrative conflicts between agencies."
- This is due to the fact that a significant portion of our meetings are spent clarifying what the roles/requirements/responsibilities of different agencies are.
- Would like it to be clear that this is an appropriate function for this Task Group, and that it is agreed that progress in this area is a justified use of the time of the members of the group.